Statement of Arthur Cerullo
Speaker, American Lung Association Nationwide Assembly
before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Fiscal Year 2011
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
March 25, 2010

Summary: Funding Recommendations (Dollars in Millions)

US Environmental Protection Agency	
Healthier Outdoor Air	**$811.3**
• **Federal Stationary Source Regulation**	**$34.9**
• **Federal Support of Air Quality Management**	**$142.3**
• **Clean Air Allowance Trading Program**	**$31.1**
• **Federal Vehicle and Fuels Standards**	**$100.7**
• **State and Local Air Quality Management (STAG)**	**$309.1**
o **Air Monitoring**	**$15**
• **Diesel Emission Reductions (STAG)**	**$100**
Human Health Risk Assessment	**$48.9**
Healthier Indoor Air	**$47.1**
Research: Clean Air	**$85.3**

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, I am Arthur Cerullo, the Speaker of the American Lung Association Nationwide Assembly. I am honored to testify in support of the Environmental Protection Agency's program to improve the nation's air. I have been a volunteer for the American Lung Association for more than twenty years. I am an attorney in private practice in Portland, Maine and prior to law school, I was a chemical process engineer for seven years. The American Lung Association was founded in 1904 to fight tuberculosis and today, our mission is **to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease.** We accomplish this through research, advocacy and education. Today, I would like to discuss with you our support for EPA's FY2011 budget for its Clean Air Program. This program will improve public health and more effectively protect those with lung disease from the adverse effects of air pollution. As Congress addresses global warming and energy issues through exciting new technology, cleaner energy sources and new policies, there is an opportunity to ensure that the air is cleaner. We urge this committee to ensure that the Clean Air Act's promise of clean, healthy air for all Americans is kept.

Lung Disease and Air Quality

Lung disease is a significant health problem in the United States. Lung disease is the third leading cause of death in the United States - responsible for one in every six deaths. More than 35 million Americans suffer from a chronic lung disease. According to the National Institutes of Health, lung diseases cost the U.S. economy an estimated $173.4 billion annually. Nearly all lung diseases are impacted by air pollution. How well or poorly our lungs perform depends on the quality of the air we breathe, making the impact of air pollution inescapable. Air pollution

remains a primary contributor to the burden of respiratory diseases in our healthcare system as well.

The Clean Air Act has proven to be a powerful tool to improve the quality of our nation's air. Since 1990, when Congress strengthened the Clean Air Act, the annual average emissions of sulfur dioxide nationwide have dropped by 59 percent, nitrogen oxide emissions have been reduced by 35 percent and carbon monoxide has plunged by 68 percent. Ambient or outdoor ozone levels are 14 percent lower on average. Fine particle levels are down by 19 percent. However, much remains to be done. Millions of Americans live in counties that do not meet current Clean Air Act health standards, including those in the Washington DC metropolitan area. The EPA estimates that 126.8 million Americans in 2008 lived in areas where they were exposed to unsafe levels of air pollution.

We are pleased to see that the President's budget increases the EPA budget for Healthier Outdoor Air to $811.3 million and for Healthier Indoor Air to $47.1 million. These increases will help the EPA address the significant health and environmental impact of air pollution.

Setting National Ambient Air Quality Standards

The Clean Air Act requires EPA to review the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone, particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide and lead every five years. We are pleased to see EPA address this obligation in a timelier manner. Historically, EPA has not met the deadlines for these reviews and has been obligated to complete such reviews under court order. Last year, the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that the EPA needed to reconsider the scientific evidence for much stronger particulate matter standards, sending their 2006 standards back to EPA for corrective action. We are pleased that EPA is on track to propose a new fine particle standard in November 2010 and issue a final standard in July 2011. In 2008, EPA set national air standards for ozone that ignored the unanimous agreement among the independent scientific advisory committee on the need for much more protective new standards, despite the Clean Air Act's clear requirements to establish science-based standards that protect public health. We are especially pleased that EPA has proposed a much stronger ozone standard, reflecting that earlier scientific assessment. EPA is expected to finalize the ozone standard in August. It is critical that the committee support setting National Ambient Air Quality Standards at levels that are appropriate for the protection of public health. **To accomplish the important air standards work, we support EPA's budget request of $48.9 million to support the Human Health Risk Assessment and we strongly support funding for Federal Stationary Source Regulations at $34.9 million that includes work to set the standards.**

Meeting National Air Pollution Health Standards

Efforts to clean up power plants and other measures to implement pollution cleanup are finally moving forward, but much work remains. EPA is working on new rules to implement the ozone standards and PM standards. EPA also must move forward with regulations to clean up power plants including the Clean Air Interstate Rule replacement and a MACT (Maximum Achievable Control Technology) rule for electric generators, as well as additional rules to regulate other large emission sources—tools that our communities must have to meet the national air standards. EPA must also support state and tribal efforts to meet the National Ambient Air Quality

Standards. **We support funding Federal Stationary Source Regulations at $34.9 million, the Clean Air Allowance Trading program budget of $31.1 million and Federal Support for Air Quality Management budget of $142.3 million.**

Cleaning up cars and trucks

EPA has continued to make progress reducing pollution from motor vehicles. However, light duty cars and trucks remain a significant source of air pollution. We strongly support EPA's planned work in FY 2011 on Tier 3 standards that could include tighter NOx standards, off-cycle standards and PM standards for gasoline vehicles as well as lower sulfur gasoline that will enable advanced pollution control technology. This work is vital to mitigate any adverse air quality impacts that may result from increased use of renewable fuels. **We strongly support increasing the Federal Vehicle and Fuel Standards and Certification budget to $100.7 million.**

Funding for State and Local Air Agencies and Air Pollution Monitoring

State and local air pollution control agencies are on the front lines in the effort to improve air quality across the nation. These agencies will be called on to adopt and enforce a range of new emissions reduction programs designed to meet the needs of each area that violate the standards. State and local air pollution agencies need additional resources to meet the obligation to implement the Clean Air Act. One area in need of significant resources and attention from this committee is the air pollution monitoring network. Monitors provide the most reliable and consistent information on air pollution in our communities. Monitoring tracks both the levels of pollution in the outside air as well as emissions from specific sources. This also enables policymakers and the public to see what measures are effective and where air quality management efforts have fallen short. Further, emerging science warns that the air quality in areas with no monitoring carries serious health risks, like the areas adjacent to major highways or in poorer neighborhoods. We are pleased to see EPA deploy new monitors in response to the new nitrogen dioxide standards. Without adequate monitors in place, pollution in those areas will not be tracked and effectively reduced. To protect populations at risk and to assess the efficacy of pollution control programs, EPA must work with scientists and state officials to lower the costs of monitoring and expand its reach. **We are pleased that the President's Budget includes $15 million for enhancing air pollution monitoring. Further, we strongly support the $82.5 million increase to $309.1 million for State and Local Air Quality Management.**

Funding for Diesel Retrofits

Diesel pollution kills. Researchers have found that adults and children show increased health risks associated with living or working in close proximity to busy roadways. Children are especially vulnerable to the effects of traffic-related air pollution. Studies show children exposed to higher levels of traffic generated air pollution have smaller lung function and worsened asthma. In addition, many components of diesel emissions have been found to be carcinogenic. Over the past decade, EPA has issued new regulations that will significantly reduce emissions from new diesel engines used in trucks, buses, heavy equipment and other vehicles. Last year, EPA issued new rules to clean up pollution from ocean going vessels. Ocean going vessels are a significant source of particle pollution. We urge the committee to support EPA's efforts to combat this pollution through the International Maritime Organization. However, it will take many years to replace the oldest and dirtiest vehicles with new ones that meet new, more

stringent federal emissions standards for diesel engines. **We support increasing funding to at least $100 million per year for FY 2011 for the Diesel Emission Reduction Act program.**

Indoor Air

We thank the committee for its support of the healthier indoor air program at EPA. EPA has provided great leadership in addressing radon, the second leading cause of lung cancer. EPA should continue its work to mitigate this risk. We are pleased to see EPA increase funding for the Healthy Schools Initiative. More than 23 million Americans suffer from asthma. Air pollution can trigger asthma attacks both indoors and outdoors. The programs funded by the Indoor Air program raise awareness about asthma and environmental factors that trigger asthma attacks; help people with asthma and their families manage environmental triggers in their homes; work to reduce children's exposure to indoor asthma triggers at schools and day care centers and promote environmental management as a component of medical and health care asthma management practices. The American Lung Association is proud to partner with EPA in this important work. **We strongly urge the committee to fund the healthier indoor air program for FY 2011 at $47 million. We are also pleased to support the Clean, Green and Healthy Schools Initiative funded at $6.2 million for FY 2011.**

Research: Clean Air

We thank the committee for its continuing support for air pollution research at EPA. EPA's work to establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards must be grounded in the best scientific research. EPA's Clean Air Research program will continue the work to improve the understanding of the impact of pollution on health and assist with crafting innovative solutions. **We urge the committee to fund the clean air research program for FY 2011 at $85.3 million.**

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to present the recommendations of the American Lung Association. Every day we are fighting for air – clean, healthy air for all Americans to breathe. A robust Environmental Protection Agency air pollution program is vital to our success.